

## ENews Notes



**September**

**2011**

From The Senior Minister

Have you ever heard or said something like this:

"There's so much pain out there. I suppose someone has to address it, but why should I have to do it? I mean, I've got my hands full right now, what with working 60 hours a week and my family and all. Besides, I've worked hard to get what I have. Why shouldn't I be able to enjoy it?"

Or, how about this:

"Yes, I know. The world is full of injustice and all. It needs to be corrected, but that will take a better person than I. It will take a Martin Luther King, Jr., a Gandhi, a Mother Theresa. Maybe all three rolled into one. I can't do that; I'm just an ordinary person."

How does one person or one group confront the challenges of the world? Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a contest he had been asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child. The winner was a four-year-old child whose next-door neighbor was an elderly man who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old man's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."

Of course, you can't solve the world's problems by yourself. Most of these problems took generations to create. One person cannot solve any of them acting alone during one life-time.

Even though you can't do it all, does that mean you can't do anything? Can you hold one weeping, broken person in the circle of your love? Compassion is about opening people up to the reality of God's love. Compassion has to do with suffering along with the downtrodden. This week I invite us to look at the world through eyes of compassion. Where are the weak and the powerless? Where are the ones that can't defend or speak for themselves? Where are the ones who are trapped and can't find the key to freedom? Look closely, because that's where God will be.

## **Calling all Young Singers! Join the Chapel Choir!**

The Chapel Choir of CCC is comprised of children in kindergarten through the 5th grade. Nae Pearson is the director of this group of young singers and the choir is accompanied by Lynne Joseloff. This choir meets each week immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service in the choir room. Healthful snacks are offered each week at the beginning of rehearsal. Our rehearsals last for 30 minutes (11:45 until 12:15) The Chapel Choir sings on the first Sunday of each month and at special services throughout the year. For the past three years the choir has presented a full length children's musical as a part of our worship celebration on Mother's Day. Listening CD's for each of the songs that the choir sings throughout the entire year are available for each child. In order to assist with learning, song-sheets with words for each song are available at all rehearsals. Parents enjoy the listening CD's as much as the children do! Come check us out any Sunday right after church in the choir room. All are welcome and encouraged to be a part of this ministry of music with our children!

### **In This Issue**

Join the Chapel Choir  
Special CCC Meeting  
Program Kick Off Sunday  
Special Collection  
Media Advocacy Work  
CCC's Endowment  
Fund  
About the Budget  
Storms and Earthquake  
9-11 Commemoration

## **Special Congregational Meeting**

A Special Congregational Meeting will convene on Sunday, September 25th at 9:45 AM in the Sanctuary, between the two Sunday Morning Services -- to discuss sale of the property at 9601 Indian Springs Drive to the YMCA, the current tenant. This is the gray stone building across the street from the church on the beltway side. The Board of Trustees will present a proposal for sale of the building and part of the land, retaining parking for the church. Please join us for a brief discussion and decision. NOTE UNIQUE TIME: this meeting will occur between the two services from 9:45 to 10:15 AM.

## **CCC 2011-2012 Program Year Kick Off Sunday**

Please visit the downstairs fellowship hall following the 10:30 am worship service on Sunday, September 25th. There will be information available on all the wonderful CCC ministries that begin their programs in September. Come learn about exciting and engaging activities related to church school, youth, adult education and music. For more information about this event please contact Trish Esposito, Outreach and Engagement Board at 301-593-1858, trishespo@yahoo.com. If you are unable to

attend this event and want information about CCC programs and ministries visit the church website at [cccsilverspring.org](http://cccsilverspring.org).

### **Neighbors in Need**

On Sunday, October 2, 2011, we will collect for "Neighbors in Need" as part of the observance of World Communion Sunday. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of the funds collected support the Council for American Indian Ministry(CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries(JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

### **Reduced Sexton Coverage at CCC**

In order to save money, CCC is reducing the hours that the church is open. In particular, instead of being open 5 nights a week, CCC will be closed on Friday evenings with the exception of one Friday a month. Sexton coverage on the weekends will also be reduced. What are the implications of this?

\* Non-CCC organizations which want to use the church during hours when it is normally closed are welcome to do so provided they pay the additional costs for the sexton.

\* CCC organizations such as boards, committees and small groups are asked to hold meetings during times when the church is normally open, or to seek alternatives.

\* CCC will provide sexton coverage for church wide events or events with a broad audience. This includes things such as weddings and funerals of church members, as well as concerts by the church choir or other special events.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact John Gipson, Chair of the Trustees.

### **Celebrating the UCC's Legacy of Media Advocacy Work**

Come celebrate the United Church of Christ's half-century of work in support of diverse and open media at the 29th annual Everett C. Parker Ethics in Telecommunications Breakfast and Lecture on Wednesday September 28 in downtown Washington. In 1959, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. solicited the help of Rev. Parker when

television stations in the Deep South were editing nightly network news broadcasts to eliminate all coverage of the civil rights movement. In the denomination's earliest days, Rev. Parker created the UCC's Office of Communication, Inc., to pursue a legal challenge that eventually led the Federal Communications Commission to revoke the broadcast license of WLBT-TV in Jackson, Mississippi, and to establish the precedent that the public had a right to participate in proceedings before the FCC. Today, OC Inc. continues to work to promote access and diversity in the media, including, increasingly, to the Internet and broadband telecommunications.

This year's Parker Lecture will be delivered by Steven Waldman, principal author of the Federal Communications Commission's Future of the Media report. Waldman was the founder of Beliefnet.com, the largest multi-faith Web site on religion, and served as its CEO from 2002 to 2007. This year's Parker Award will be conferred on Alex Nogales, president and CEO of the National Hispanic Media Coalition, in recognition of his work to promote diversity in the programming, news coverage, and hiring practices of mainstream media, particularly on behalf of Hispanics. Joseph W. Waz Jr., former senior vice president of external affairs and public policy counsel of Comcast, will receive the 2011 Donald M. McGannon Award in recognition of his work to promote opportunities in the cable industry for young women and persons of color. In addition, this year OC Inc. will present a special Newton Minow Award to retiring FCC Commissioner Michael Copps in recognition of Copps, 10 years of service at the commission and his work in support of the public interest and to promote diverse media voices in the United States.

The event helps to support the ongoing advocacy work of OC Inc. It will begin at 8 a.m. at the Washington Post Conference Center, 1150 15th Street NW, Washington. (Doors open at 7:30 a.m.) To purchase tickets or for more information, go to [www.uccmediajustice.org](http://www.uccmediajustice.org).

### **CCC's Endowment Fund**

In 2007, the Congregation amended CCC's Constitution and By-laws to create the Planned Giving Committee (PGC) to promote and administer our Endowment Fund. The purpose of the Fund is "to strengthen the long-term ministry of CCC by creating and building financial assets which will help CCC develop significant new ministries beyond what would otherwise be possible through its annual operating budget and to enhance the facilities of the church".

Amounts in the Endowment Fund date back to several bequests made in the early 1990's by long-time members of the Congregation. In 1996 the Fund was greatly enlarged by a very substantial bequest from Marian Tate, the church's first Director of Christian Education and later our Assistant

Minister. Marian's bequest, now known as the Marian K. Tate Fellowship, provided that her gift be invested in the mutual funds managed by the United Church Foundation (now called the United Church Funds) and that the earnings on the investments be used to supplement CCC's operating budget. Since then, additional bequests and outright gifts to the Endowment Fund have been made by members and friends of CCC.

The PGC is responsible for providing education and information about planned giving to the congregation and for managing the Endowment Fund. It may also make recommendations about the expenditure of the unrestricted portion of the Fund (restricted gifts are managed and expended in accordance with the donors' stipulations), but no such expenditure can be made without the approval of the congregation.

Since its inception in 2007, except where contributions to the Fund have stipulations requiring how the contributions (and income and appreciation from them) are to be spent, the PGC has worked hard to build the Endowment Fund. Thus, it has not as yet recommended any major expenditure from the Fund and has retained all earnings and capital appreciation in the Fund.

As of June 30, 2011, the Endowment Fund had a market value of approximately \$490,000. Of this amount, approximately \$390,000 is subject to stipulated use. The Fund currently is invested in two mutual funds managed by the United Church Funds (UCF): 95% is invested in the Moderate Balanced Fund and 5% is in the Conservative Balanced Fund. The UCF mutual funds have performed reasonably well in comparison to general market indicators. Also important is that the UCF investment policy is to invest in socially-responsible companies.

The PGC has seven members - Karen O'Steen, Thom Hirsch, Bruce Esposito, Chris Bublitz, Tom Ault, and Dave and Toko Ackerman. All are available to answer your questions about the Fund and planned giving.

### **Support of the Congregation Keeps the Budget in the Black**

Our Treasurer, Dan Pence, reports that we ended the 2010-2011 year with a small surplus of \$4,061. This news is excellent and somewhat surprising, considering that at the start of the year we thought we were going to end in the red: at the 2010 Annual Meeting we adopted a budget for the upcoming year with a deficit of \$30,773.

The primary reason we ended with a surplus was the extraordinary support of the Congregation for our "Share in Our Future" campaign. Not only did we end the year without a deficit, we were also able to more fairly compensate Amy Lewis, our Minister for Adults, and to increase the budget of the Board for Social Witness.

In other good news, over the year we decreased our outstanding debt on the building by \$55,283. This figure, while not a large percentage of our overall debt, is nonetheless substantial in absolute terms, and it shows we are moving in the right direction.

Financial contributions from the Congregation provide by far the largest share of our income. We should feel proud about our efforts in financing our mission, programs, staff and building. This generosity helps us to continue to offer inspiring worship, transformational programming, and community-building opportunities. Thanks to all who sustain the mission and ministry of CCC!

Dan has completed the Annual Report of the Treasurer for 2010-2011. This year, the accounts have been restructured somewhat on the advice of our auditors, and the report includes a narrative that explains these changes. Copies are available in the church office.

Tom Gustafson, Moderator - John Gipson, Chair, Board of Trustees - Matthew Braddock, Senior Minister

### **CCC Weathers Summer Storms and Earthquake**

After coming through the August 25th earthquake unscathed, CCC readied itself for Hurricane Irene only to brace immediately for Tropical Storm Lee following close on Irene's heels. Church Administrator Dianne Abraham implemented a plan well-honed by years of practice. Custodians Paul Erickson and Noel Cruz spent about 4 hours on Friday evening, August 26th, taking up all the window well grates and ensuring storm drains were clear of debris, preparing and placing sandbags, fueling the courtyard generator, and checking sump pumps. Cory Gray met with Paul earlier in the week to review the building's vulnerable points and key areas to take care of in advance of the storm.

Particularly vulnerable areas are the Social Hall stage, Rooms 009 and 010, and the Social Hall kitchen. The courtyard drains require constant vigilance because of sand and wood chips carried into them from the play areas anytime there is a violent downpour. The generator is fueled by purchasing and hand-carrying 5 gallons of diesel fuel, one container at a time, and replenishing the fuel tank. Sump pumps in the window well on the Brewster Avenue side of the church are threatened by leaves, grass clippings and other debris getting past the grating screens and clogging the machinery.

The additional work and effort paid off. In spite of wind and rain, no water entered the church, and the building sustained no storm damage.

Jackie Walters for the Communications Officer

### **CCC Is Well-Represented at Islamic Society's 9-11 Commemoration**

Over 30 members, staff, family and friends of CCC attended the commemoration service hosted by the Islamic Society of the Washington Area (ISWA) on Sunday, September 11. The Reverend Doctor Matthew Braddock was one of several distinguished speakers who provided a diverse, yet unified, message of hope, unity and reconciliation. Speakers included County Executive Isaiah Leggett, Maryland state delegates, representatives of the Honorable Chris Van Hollen and Governor Martin O'Malley, Rabbi David Rose, Imam Faizul Khan, and Brother Zamal Hosein.

Independently, these speakers focused on three key points: (1) The strength of the United States of America lies in its diversity and unity around common values of religious freedom; (2) Terrorism will be victorious only if Americans permit extremism to curtail our freedom and threaten our diversity; and (3) Americans of all faiths have the power to transform fear into hope and darkness into light. Whatever may divide us is not as strong as what unites us as a people with a common purpose, common vision and common courage.

Salmah Rizvi, who was a 14-year-old high school student on September 11, 2001, spoke about the anti-Muslim chants and epithets resounding throughout her school following the attacks. She established a goal of proving that Muslim Americans could contribute to our domestic security, won scholarships from the Department of Defense for her undergraduate and graduate degrees, and now works for DoD to inspire young people, particularly Muslims, to pursue careers in security and defense.

The Rev. Bill Maish, a Methodist minister and Maryland State Policy Academy Chaplain, vividly and movingly described being in the affected wing of the Pentagon when American Airlines Flight 77 struck. He described the human chain of hands reaching out to, opening up for, and bringing in those along the way out through the suffocating smoke and fearful darkness. His closing prayer called for our common humanity and the shared tenets of all faiths to promote unity, peace and hope.

Following the service, the members of the Islamic Society of the Washington Area hosted a reception.

Jackie Walters for the Communications Officer

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to johnson.barry@verizon.net by [cccoffice@cccsilverspring.org](mailto:cccoffice@cccsilverspring.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Christ Congregational Church, UCC | 9525 Colesville Road | Silver Spring | MD | 20901